

Wednesday, December 26, 2007

Duxbury Clipper

p. 3

GATRA Service to Begin in January

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

GATRA shuttle buses will begin rolling through Duxbury in mid-January.

GATRA, which stands for Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority, has contracted with the town to provide transportation from Duxbury to the Independence Mall with stops at the Kingsbury Plaza and the Kingston commuter rail station.

Selectmen last week voted unanimously to accept bus service from GATRA.

Buses will begin at 6:30 a.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. The route shows the 20-passenger mini-bus traveling along Route 3A, down Chestnut Street to Depot Street and Hall's Corner and back along Tremont Street to Alden Street and the library. Stops vary with the schedule.

The 6:30 a.m. bus will pick up passengers at Hall's Corner at the Foodie's Plaza and stop at the Island Creek development at 6:44 a.m. After three more Kingston stops, it will reach the commuter rail at 7:02 a.m. and the Independence Mall at 7:10 a.m.

The 10 a.m. bus has its first stop at the Duxbury Free

BUS SERVICE DETAILS

SCHEDULE: Bus service to run from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily.

ROUTE: The 20-passenger mini-bus will travel along Route 3A, down Chestnut Street to Depot Street and Hall's Corner and back along Tremont Street to Alden Street and the library.

STOPS: Stops vary with the schedule, with buses running to the Independence Mall and connecting with other Plymouth-area buses that run to downtown Plymouth, the Long Pond Medical Building, the Shops at Five, Colony Place and Jordan Hospital.

COST: The cost is \$1 for a one-way ticket and 50 cents for seniors and the disabled.

Library and reaches the mall by 10:30 a.m. It does not stop at the train station. The inbound buses leave Duxbury every hour and the outbound buses leave the Independence Mall every half hour.

The Duxbury bus can connect with other Plymouth-area GATRA buses that run to downtown Plymouth, the Long Pond medical building, the Shops at Five and the Colony Place shopping area and Jordan Hospital.

The route is a pilot program and is subject to change, said Town Manager Richard MacDonald.

GATRA representative Frank Gay said the bus will be perfect for young people, seniors, and the disabled who need to get around town for work or to shop. For example, a high school student could take a 2 p.m. bus from the library and arrive at Hall's Corner to work at Foodie's 10 minutes later.

The bus costs \$1 one-way and 50 cents for seniors and the disabled, said Gay. Riders can buy tickets or a pass or pay cash.

"It's pretty reasonable," said Selectmen Chairman Andre Martecchini.

Rates are set at a public hearing in front of the GATRA board and Duxbury has its own representative on the board.

Having GATRA come to Duxbury will cost \$70,000. However, the town plans to pay for the bus by using part of its \$93,000 assessment for the Metropolitan Bay Transit Authority, for which Duxbury receives no direct services.

"Now we're actually going to get something for our money," said Selectman Betsy Sullivan.